

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 04362 311833Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 311600Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5759
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MUNICH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4362

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, UR, PFOR, SHUM, US
SUBJ: DISSIDENT ROUNDUP

REF: MOSCOW 3970 (NOTAL)

1. AN AMERICAN JOURNALIST TOLD US THAT ANATOLIY SHCHARANSKIY'S MOTHER HAD A FRUITLESS MEETING WITH THE KGB ON MARCH 31. MRS. SHCHARANSKAYA WAS RECEIVED AT LEFORTOVO PRISON WHERE HER SON IS INCARCERATED, AND TOLD THAT THE INVESTIGATION INTO HER SON'S CRIMES WOULD BE A LONG ONE AND WOULD CONTINUE "FOR SEVERAL MONTHS YET". SHE WAS TOLD NOT TO BE IN A HURRY TO GET A LAWYER. THE PRISON AUTHORITIES TOLD HER THAT THE INVESTIGATION CONCERNED ARTICLES 64 (TREASON) AND 70 (ANTI-SOVIET AGITATION) OF THE RSFSR CRIMINAL CODE. OFFENSES UNDER THESE ARTICLES ARE PUNISHABLE BY DEATH OR FROM TEN TO 15 YEARS IMPRISONMENT (ARTICLE 64) AND UP TO SEVEN YEARS IN PRISON (ARTICLE 70). THE AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY TOLD MRS. SHCHARANSKAYA THAT HER SON HAD COOPERATED WITH THE INVESTIGATORS, BUT SHE DOUBTS THAT. IN ANY CASE, CHARGES UNDER EITHER ARTICLE ARE EXTREMELY SERIOUS.

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2. VLADIMIR SLEPAK TELLS US THAT THE REFUSENIK COMMUNITY FEARS A CRACK-DOWN FOLLOWING THE VANCE VISIT. HE SAID THAT HE AND ALEKSANDR LERNER BOTH FEEL THAT THE HARD-LINE WHICH, THEY GATHER, THE SOVIETS TOOK ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE TALKS WITH SECRETARY VANCE, INDICATES A DECISION TO BE TOUGHER ON THE JEWISH COMMUNITY.

3. WE HAVE HEARD FROM THREE SEPARATE SOURCES THAT SANYA LIPAVSKIY, AUTHOR OF THE "OPEN LETTER" IN IZVESTIYA, HAS REAPPEARED IN MOSCOW. THE STORY ON LIPAVSKIY VARIES SLIGHTLY ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE. ONE VERSION HAS IT THAT HE IS TAKING THE LINE THAT HE WAS "USED" BY THE KGB. ANOTHER SAYS THAT THE KGB "BLACKMAILED" HIM. ACCORDING TO ALL THE SOURCES, HOWEVER, HE HAS RECANTED AND IS BEGGING FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY. SLEPAK, WITH WHOM WE DISCUSSED THIS, EXPRESSED DISBELIEF THAT ANYONE COULD TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY, BUT SAID THAT HE FOUND IT CREDIBLE THAT THE KGB MIGHT SURFACE LIPAVSKIY AGAIN.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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